

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1937

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 201

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST AT PLANNED BERLIN

MEETING OF ZIONIST YOUTH OF GERMANY

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTESTED AT POLAD
LEVEL JAN 30 PROPOSAL OF ZIONIST YOUTH OF GERMANY
TO HOLD SEMINAR IN BERLIN FEB 27-MARCH 1 ON SUBJECT
OF SITUATION OF JEWS IN SOVIET UNION. STATEMENT
CHARACTERIZED THIS PLANNED SEMINAR AS PROVOCATIVE
ANTI-SOVIET ACT THAT WAS CONTRARY BOTH TO RESULTS OF
CSCE AND TO QA PROVISIONS FOR ELIMINATION OF TENSIONS
IN BERLIN AREA, AND CALLED UPON THREE ALLIES TO
PROHIBIT ITS TAKING PLACE. ACTING BRITISH POLAD,
TO WHOM STATEMENT DELIVERED, RESPONDED WITH DEFENSE
OF RIGHT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND SPEECH. BRITISH
VIEW, WHICH WE SHARE, IS THAT THERE ARE CLEARLY NO
GROUNDS FOR ACCEDING TO SOVIET REQUEST. INDEED,
WE ARE DOUBTFUL AS TO PROPRIETY OF EVEN MAKING ANY
FORMAL RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

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2. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KHOTULEV CALLED ON ACTING BRITISH (CHAIRMAN) POLAD JAN 30 TO DELIVER FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT, COPY OF WHICH WAS LEFT:

QUOTE IT HAS BECOME KNOWN THAT THE REACTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF THE FRG 'ZIONIST YOUTH IN GERMANY' INTENDS TO HOLD IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN A 'SEMINAR' ON THE SUBJECT OF 'THE SITUATION OF JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION' FOR THE PERIOD 27 FEBRUARY TO 1 MARCH OF THIS YEAR. QUOTE THE PROVOCATIVE AND OPENLY HOSTILE CHARACTER OF THIS UNDERTAKING WITH RESPECT TO THE SOVIET UNION IS OBVIOUS. ITS INITIATORS, SEEKING TO POISON THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE AND TO INTERFERE IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROCESS OF RELAXATION, MUTUAL TRUST AND CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION, MANIFESTLY DO NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE HELD IN HELSINKI.

QUOTE THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES LIKEWISE TO THE FACT THAT THE REALIZATION OF THIS ANTI-SOVIET ACT WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1971, IN WHICH THE FOUR POWERS STATED THEIR DESIRE TO PROMOTE THE ELIMINATION OF TENSION AND PREVENTION OF COMPLICATIONS ARISING AROUND THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. THEREFORE IT IS CLEAR THAT THE USE OF THE TERRITORY OF THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN FOR AN ORGANIZATION PROVOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ONE OF THE FOUR POWERS-- PARTICIPANTS IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT-- CAN ONLY LEAD TO UNDESIRABLE EXACERBATIONS OF THE SITUATION.

QUOTE THE SOVIET SIDE EXPECTS THAT THE THREE ALLIES, TAKING DUE NOTE OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, WILL IN THE INTERESTS OF THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NORMALLY QUIET SITUATION AROUND THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES NOT TO ALLOW THE HOLDING OF THE ABOVE

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'SEMINAR'. UNQUOTE

3. ACTING BRITISH POLAD REMARKED THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF ORGANIZATION IN QUESTION OR OF PLANNED SEMINAR. HE ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT THAT RIGHT OF FREE ASSOCIATION IN BERLIN WAS SOMETHING WHICH WESTERN ALLIES, AS DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, ACTIVELY BELIEVED IN. MANY DIFFERENT

ORGANIZATIONS HELD MEETINGS HERE AND INDEED THERE HAD HARDLY BEEN TO BRITISH LIKING BUT THAT HAD NOT BEEN BANNED AS CONSEQUENCE. POLAD UNDERTOOK TO INFORM U.S. AND FRENCH MISSIONS OF SOVIET APPROACH, BUT PROMISED NO ANSWER.

4. BRITISH MISSION'S PRELIMINARY RESEARCHES INDICATE THAT ZIONIST YOUTH OF GERMANY IS PRIMARILY STUDENT BODY BASED IN FRG. IT IS NOT CONSIDERED SUBVERSIVE. BRITISH HAVE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO GROUNDS FOR ACCEDING TO SOVIET REQUEST: SEMINAR IS IN NO WAY THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER AND ITS VAGUELY ANTI-SOVIET FLAVOR CERTAINLY CONSTITUTES NO REASON FOR BAN. BRITISH SURMISE THAT BERLIN WAS CHOSEN AS SITE FOR SEMINAR DUE TO PRESENCE HERE OF LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF PLIGHT OF THEIR BRETHREN IN SOVIET UNION.

5. COMMENT: WE CONCUR IN BRITISH VIEW THAT THERE IS NO BASIS FOR ACCEDING TO SOVIET REQUEST. REGARDLESS OF SOVIET DISCOMFITURE AT OPEN DISCUSSION OF SO SENSITIVE A SUBJECT AS SOVIET JEWRY ON THE VERY DOORSTEP OF THE SOVIET BLOC--WE CAN HARDLY INTERFERE WITH NORMAL EXERCISE OF RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY WITHOUT COMPELLING REASONS OF PUBLIC SECURITY. INDEED, QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD MAKE ANY FORMAL RESPONSE AT ALL TO SOVIET STATEMENT. SEMINAR IN QUESTION IS IN FACT (AS SOVIETS SEEM TO ACKNOWLEDGE THROUGH THEIR CHOICE OF LANGUAGE) PURELY INTERNAL AFFAIR OF WESTERN SECTORS, FOR WHICH WE ARE NOT ANSWERABLE TO SOVIETS. MOREOVER, WE
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ARE NOT DEALING HERE WITH APPLICATION OR INTERPRETATION OF SPECIFIC WORKING PROVISION OF QA, WHERE THERE COULD BE AT LEAST SUPERFICIAL CAUSE FOR LEGAL ARGUMENT AND COUNTERARGUMENT, BUT RATHER WITH MORE GENERAL LANGUAGE CONCERNING ELIMINATION OF TENSIONS THAT IS IN ITS APPLICATION PLAINLY DEPENDENT ON POLITICAL ATTITUDES WHICH ARE BOUND AT TIMES TO BE WIDELY DIVERGENT GIVEN DIFFERING ALLIED-SOVIET INTERESTS IN AREA. RESPONDING TO SOVIET COMPLAINT IN PRESENT INSTANCE WOULD, WE BELIEVE, AMOUNT TO ACKNOWLEDGING SOME FORM OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO SOVIETS FOR INTRINSICALLY WEST BERLIN MATTERS, AND WOULD AT SAME TIME ENCOURAGE FURTHER PROTESTS, BASED ON "ELIMINATION OF TENSIONS" CLAUSE, AGAINST ANYTHING HERE THAT DID NOT STRIKE PARTICULAR SOVIET FANCY.

WE WOULD NOTE THAT ARGUMENTS DEPLOYED AGAINST
ZIONIST YOUTH SEMINAR ARE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR
(WITH EXCEPTION OF CSCE, OF COURSE) TO THOSE
MARSHALLED BY SOVIETS IN JAN 1975 IN THEIR PROTEST
AGAINST BUND FREIES DEUTSCHLAND (SEE 75 BERLIN 164).
AT THAT TIME, AS ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL, ALLIES
AGREED NOT TO DIGNIFY SOVIET COMPLAINTS WITH FORMAL OR NEW
RESPONSE AND INSTEAD RESTED WITH COMMENTS MADE AT
TIME BY BRITISH POLAD. END COMMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DOES EMBASSY HAVE ANY INFORMATION
ON REFERENCED ORGANIZATION?
GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
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